



TRICARE SENIOR PRIME
OFFICE OF PLAN ADMINISTRATION
TRICARE Northwest
Madigan Army Medical Center
Tacoma, Washington 98431

Number 98-3

November 10, 1998

Information Alert

SUBJECT: Mental Health & Substance Abuse - Inpatient

The following clarifies the benefit for Mental Health & Substance Abuse with regard to the number of days allowed and whether the limit may be waived.

QUESTION: Which benefit applies to TSP?

TRICARE: 30 inpatient days per year for mental health, with a limit of 7 days for Chemical Dependency (CD) detox and 21 days for CD rehabilitation (all of which can be waived, if medically necessary). For CD rehabilitation there is the additional limit of one admission per year and three admissions in a lifetime.

MEDICARE: 190 lifetime inpatient days for mental health and CD when in a Medicare-certified psychiatric hospital; and 90 days per year (plus an additional 60 lifetime reserve days) when in a Medicare-certified acute general hospital.

RESPONSE: With regard to inpatient care in a psychiatric hospital, follow Medicare's ruling of 190 days in a lifetime. **This limit may not be waived.**

This information should be provided to administrators and providers involved with the implementation, training or delivery of care for TRICARE Senior Prime.